

Remarks

Claims 23-37 are now pending in this application. Applicants have presented new claims 23-37 and cancelled claims 1-22 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner stated that claims 7-9, 17, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, to which newly presented independent claims 23, 26, 29, 32, and 35 correspond. Newly presented dependent claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, and 37 correspond to dependent claims already pending in the application. Therefore, only claims that the Examiner indicates are allowable are pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claim 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 16, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,840,595 to Kobayashi. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi. These rejections are not relevant to the pending claims and Applicants respectfully request their withdrawal.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this application, Applicants

respectfully urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/12/05

  
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